The third item of expenditure is for running the milk canteens. A sum of Rs.5,000 has already been provided in the budget for Milk canteens. It was expected that the original supply of milk would last only for six months, but now the Government have been able to get fresh supply for another six months. So, this additional amount of Rs. 3,300 is required. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction the amount.

Mr. G. Ravi Varma: May I know the number of cases of plague that occurred in 1119 and 1120 in the State?

Rajyasevaniratha Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: There were two cases in 1119 and only one case was reported in 1120.

Mr. G. Ravi Varma: Is it necessary to continue the staff this year also on this large amount?

Rajyasevaniratha Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: Yes, Sir, because preventive measures have to be taken vigorously. Only then the situation can be got under control.

President: Honourable members will remember that in the case of such things as plague control, prompt measures will have to be taken. In and around the State, there is plague prevailing and in the Cumbum Valley and in Coimbatore, there is always endemic plague. Unless we are careful and take prompt measures, plague might invade us. So far, we have been kept fairly free but no relaxation of the proposed measures would be possible.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 18,945 under Demand XXVII—Public Health and Sanitation—was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXX—STATIONERY AND PRINTING—Rs. 288.

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 288 under Demand XXX—Stationery and Printing.

A sum of Rs. 160 is required for the appointment of a temporary clerk in the Government Press and a sum of Rs. 128 is required for the appointment of an additional turner in the Government Press.

In view to the large volume of paper and binding materials expended in the Government Press, the Controller brought to the notice of Government the desirability of calling for weekly statements from the Press for scrutiny and check in the Central Printing Office. The Superintendent of the Government Press was accordingly asked to prepare the weekly statement for submission to the

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[Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker.]

Central Printing Office. Now the Superintendent reports that on account of increase of work it is difficult for him to arrange for this routine work without additional staff. In view to the heavy financial commitments involved in the matter and on account of the imperative necessity of keeping a check over the expenditure on this item, especially when the prices of articles are very high, Government propose to appoint a temporary clerk and this House is being requested to grant the amount of Rs. 160 for the purpose.

The next item of expenditure is in regard to the additional appointment of a turner in the Government Press. The Press is now making seals and stamps required for Government Offices and it has been carrying on this work for a fairly long time. The work is now in arrears and about 180 stamps and seals have to be made—that the Superintendent has now asked for an additional turner in order that the pending orders may be executed urgently. This temporary hand is required only to clear off the arrears and as soon as the work is over, he will be disbanded. I therefore request that the House may be pleased to grant this small sum.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 288 under XXX—Stationery and Printing was put and carried.

The grant was made.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

President: Mr. Joseph, if you want to say anything you can say it now.

Mr. K. S. Joseph: I was thinking that, we members of this House were feeling this difficulty, that bills are not given to us sufficiently early to enable us to send amendments in time. The Rules provide that amendments should be sent six days earlier than the Session. The bills as passed by the Assembly have reached us only yesterday evening.

President: I can fully realise the difficulty of the honourable members, and I have asked the Chief Secretary to explain the steps that we have taken to get rid of those difficulties. But in regard to the Bills before the House today, excepting on the Chitties Bill no amendments have been passed in regard to the other Bills and I take it that in regard to these Bills if honourable members wanted to put forward amendments they could have done so as soon as they got the copy of the Bill. Anyhow the Chief Secretary will explain what we have done.

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